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 Kenny/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Robin Kime/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Alex
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 Cristofaro/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Nancy Ketcham-
 Colwill/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=John Frece/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Joel
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Cc: []

From: CN=Sandy Germann/OU=RTP/O=USEPA/C=US

Sent: Thur 11/1/2012 11:46:44 AM

Subject: Drilling activity in Pavillion, Wyo., not fouling the air -- study

WY DEQ air monitoring results revealed "no violations of the federal ozone or PM standard, although ozone concentrations reached the federal 75 parts per billion threshold on May 26, 2011. The DEQ "believes this was part of a regional stratospheric ozone intrusion event, as elevated concentrations were also measured at other [state] monitoring stations," according to a 12-page summary of the monitoring data."

Drilling activity in Pavillion, Wyo., not fouling the air -- study

Outlet Full Name: Greenwire

News Text: While natural gas drilling and its possible impacts on groundwater in Pavillion, Wyo., remain an issue of heated debate, the air the residents breathe in the small northwest Wyoming town is clean, state regulators say.

That is based on the final results of a more than yearlong air quality study that was conducted by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality in response to complaints from some Pavillion-area

residents.

The state DEQ set up a mobile air quality monitor downwind of a large natural gas field operated by Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc., nearly 6 miles east of the town that stands at the epicenter of the ongoing debate over hydraulic fracturing and its potential impacts to public health and the environment.

The air quality monitor measured for ground-level ozone and particulate matter (PM) pollution, along with various hydrocarbons associated with gas drilling and methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Samples were collected between Jan. 27, 2011, and March 31 of this year.

The results of the air monitoring revealed no violations of the federal ozone or PM standard, although ozone concentrations reached the federal 75 parts per billion threshold on May 26, 2011. The DEQ "believes this was part of a regional stratospheric ozone intrusion event, as elevated concentrations were also measured at other [state] monitoring stations," according to a 12-page summary of the monitoring data.

Steve Dietrich, the DEQ's air quality administrator, visited Pavillion last week to share the results of the air study, which also measured "some elevated particulate matter concentrations" in Pavillion during late August 2011, though nothing that exceeded the federal health-based standard.

"During the 14 month period that it operated, this station monitored compliance with all Ambient Air Quality Standards, both federal and state," according to the DEQ summary report.

Dietrich said the results of the study allow his agency to remain "confident" that air quality in Pavillion complies with federal and state law.

"Because of these results, there is no further air monitoring recommended in the Pavillion area at this time," he said.

The air monitoring study results are a rare bit of good news for Pavillion, which has been struggling with the positive and negative effects of increased oil and natural gas drilling and the use of hydraulic fracturing techniques that have opened up vast storehouses of resources that were previously unattainable.

Pavillion gained national attention last year when water quality sampling conducted by U.S. EPA found fracking fluids in the groundwater in the area, though not in the groundwater that residents use for drinking. However, the state is providing water tanks for more than a dozen residents who live near the gas field.

A second round of groundwater tests conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey and released last month appeared to confirm the EPA results, though the USGS monitoring results have come under fire from industry because the agency sampled only one of two wells on which EPA based its conclusions (EnergyWire, Sept. 27).

As for the air quality study, some residents remain skeptical, according to media reports, and have argued that the test results are not valid for myriad reasons, including the location of the air monitor.

But Vince Dolbow, a longtime Pavillion resident who agreed to allow the state to place the mobile air monitoring unit on his property, said in an interview that the results of the study should put to rest any fears about air pollution caused by nearby drilling activity.

The DEQ shared preliminary results of the testing with residents last spring, and Dolbow said he wasn't surprised by the final conclusions in the latest report (EnergyWire, March 30).

"Most people would love to have the air quality we have out here," Dolbow said.